

I attended the march in DC, and it was heartening to see such incredible enthusiasm.

According to Metro, the system has not seen crowds that large since Barack Obama's first inauguration.

But not even 72 hours after more than 500,000 mothers, daughters, husbands, and fathers descended onto our nation's capital in collective opposition to President Trump's appalling misogyny, the House majority has decided to double down on its anti-woman, anti-health care assault.

The only bill to be considered under a rule on the floor this short work week, H.R. 7, is yet another attempt by the majority to restrict a woman's right to choose and put Congress between a woman and her doctor.

As it cloaks itself in a complete state of denial about the message America sent them on Saturday, the House majority is taking its cue from President Trump.

The House majority and the White House seem bound and determined to ignore the powerful message sent by a protest march that no doubt shook the Eisenhower china.

COMMENDING KAZAKHSTAN ON 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion piece written by our former colleague, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, who was the first Asian-Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, which had broad jurisdiction for U.S. policy affecting the region, including Central Asia. Mr. Faleomavaega also founded the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia, and his work continues to influence the region today.

In 1991, Kazakhstan gained its independence from the Soviet Union. For some 15 years, I have been honored to work closely with the government of Kazakhstan in various capacities—as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs; as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment; as Ranking Member; and as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

I am proud of Kazakshtan for the great progress it has made since independence, and I especially commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his leadership on nuclear non-proliferation. Upon inheriting the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the world's second largest test site from the Soviet Union after its collapse, President Nazarbayev voluntarily chose to dismantle and disarm with the help of U.S. assistance.

His act was both heroic and principled. For this, I have repeatedly called upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize the deeds of President Nazarbayev as well as former Senators Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar, who co-authored the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, which has contributed to world peace, in untold ways.

While I have no illusions about whether or not we can bring about a nuclear-weapons free world, I do have some thoughts because, like Kazakhs, Pacific Islanders share a similar history. From 1946 to 1958, the United States used the Republic of the Marshall Islands—a Micronesian nation of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean—as its Cold War nuclear testing ground, detonating 66 nuclear weapons including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

The U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands also set a precedent for France to use the islands of the Pacific for its own testing program after getting kicked out of Algeria where it conducted 17 nuclear tests from 1960–1966. To this day, radioactive material is still seeping out of the Sahara desert as a result of French nuclear testing.

Having been defeated in Algeria and emboldened by U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, France detonated approximately 218 nuclear devices in Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia. Consequently, these islands also seep radioactive materials and are no longer inhabitable.

This is why I share President Nazarbayev's vision, especially as Kazakhstan has just celebrated its 25 years of independence. My position regarding this matter is no different than the position the United States took during a joint meeting between President Obama and President Nazarbayev on April 11, 2010 when President Obama noted that “the U.S. appreciates the leadership of President Nazrbayev and the contribution of Kazakhstan to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.”

My position is also no different than the stance taken by former President George H.W. Bush, who welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and his son, President George W. Bush, who also welcomed President Nazarbayev to the White House and declared our commitment “to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations.”

I thank Kazakhstan for all it has done to re-shape the world, post Cold-War, and I stand with President Nazarbayev as he champions nuclear disarmament among possessor states and prevents proliferation to new states.

In broader terms, I also commend Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Kairat Umarov for all he has done to strengthen the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. I have known him for nearly 15 years and I know firsthand of his tireless efforts to promote goodwill between Kazakhstan and the United States. His great work for and on behalf of our nations is deserving of inclusion in the Congressional Record for historical purposes, as his contributions are unparalleled.

I also commend Mr. Roman Vassilenko who now serves as Deputy Foreign Minister and previously served as Chairman for the Committee for International Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and also as Counselor for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States. Like Ambassador Umarov, I have known Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko for nearly 15 years. I have watched his career soar as he has put his talents to use for the Republic of Kazakhstan. His impact in communicating Kazakhstan's policies to its citizens and communicating its foreign policy to international audiences and governments

through digital diplomacy has been nothing short of revolutionary.

I also note the work of Mr. Aibek Nurbalin who I also met some 15 years ago when he worked as the Congressional Liaison for the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United States, and later as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan. Mr. Nurbalin left no stone unturned in promoting the cause of Kazakhstan and in making certain that President Nazarbayev's policies and agenda were known and supported, especially in the U.S. Congress.

I have known many diplomats during the course of my service as a Member of Congress. Never have I known diplomats who worked harder on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan than Ambassador Umarov, Deputy Foreign Minister Vassilenko, former Deputy Chief of Staff Aibek Nurbalin, Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev, and current Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov. It was often said that Roman and Aibek were the left leg and the right leg of my dear friend, Kanat Saudabayev, when he served as Kazakhtan's Ambassador to the United States. If they were the legs, Ambassador Umarov was his heart. And, current Foreign Minister Idrissov is to be fully commended for taking the U.S.-Kazakh relationship to the next level, and beyond. His service, like the service of Ambassador Umarov and Secretary Saudabayev, is also unmatched.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, I would be remiss if I did not publicly honor these outstanding diplomats for all they have done to help build an independent nation worthy of its place in the world community. I also cannot let this historic occasion pass by without once more commending President Nazarbayev for leading the way for a nuclear free world. As a Pacific Islander, it is my sincere hope that the world will follow his lead as we work together for this cause, which is good.

HONORING QUINN HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quinn Hall. Quinn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Quinn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quinn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Quinn has led his troop as the Patrol Leader, became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. Quinn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Quinn constructed an octoball arena for his youth group at Liberty United Methodist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Quinn Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.